

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 A-01 OPR-02 SY-05 MCT-01
CU-04 OC-06 CCO-00 DHA-05 /106 W
-----061304 121626Z /43

P R 121459Z OCT 77
FM AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6477
INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMCONSUL DURBAN
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
USUN NEW YORK 1544

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINS, PINT, SF
SUBJECT: POLICE ARREST 471 STUDENTS IN PORT ELIZABETH

REF: PRETORIA 5335

SUMMARY: PRESS REPORTS INDICATE 471 STUDENTS ARRESTED IN
PORT ELIZABETH FOLLOWING INCIDENTS OF STONE-THROWING AND
ARSON. END SUMMARY.

1. THE SPORADIC UNREST AND VIOLENCE WHICH HAS OCCURRED IN
THE EASTERN CAPE IN THE PAST THREE WEEKS (REFTEL) FLARED
AGAIN OCT. 11 IN BLACK TOWNSHIPS OF PORT ELIZABETH.

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PRESS REPORTS THAT 471 STUDENTS WERE ARRESTED AFTER
STONE-THROWING CLASHES WITH POLICE.

2. CLASHES APPARENTLY OCCURRED FOLLOWING A MEETING OF
NEWLY-FORMED STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL WHICH MET
OCT. 11 TO DISCUSS PLANNED RE-OPENING OF BLACK PRIMARY
SCHOOLS SLATED FOR OCT. 12. AS STUDENTS LEFT CHURCH

HALL, CROWD OF SOME 700 APPARENTLY RESPONDED TO POLICE ORDERS TO DISPERSE BY THROWING STONES. POLICE DISPERSED CROWD WITH TEAR GAS AND DROVE STUDENTS BACK INTO CHURCH HALL WHERE 471, ALL MALES, WERE ARRESTED. POLICE REPORTED NO RPT NO SHOTS WERE FIRED.

3. IN OTHER REPORTED INCIDENTS, ATTEMPTS WERE MADE TO BURN HOUSES OF THREE BLACK POLICEMEN, A CROWD STONED A SCHOOL PRINCIPAL AND FAMILY AND SET FIRE TO HIS CAR AND HOMES OF A BLACK ACTOR AND HIS BROTHER WERE DESTROYED BY FIRE.

4. IN A PATTERN FOLLOWED IN ATTEMPTED SCHOOL BOYCOTTS IN OTHER CITIES, PORT ELIZABETH SRC RESOLVED TO (A) CONTINUE THE SCHOOL BOYCOTT, (B) MOUNT CAMPAIGN TO EDUCATE CHURCH LEADERS ON NEED TO ABOLISH BANTU EDUCATION, (C) CALL ON PARENTS WHO HAVE SENT CHILDREN TO SCHOOLS OUTSIDE PORT ELIZABETH TO BRING THEM BACK TO JOIN IN BOYCOTT. PRIMARY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE ON FIRST DAY OF NEW TERM WAS REPORTED VERY LOW.

TM COMMENT: A CAPE TOWN ATTORNEY WHO SPOKE TO ONE OF PORT ELIZABETH ATTORNEYS REPRESENTING STUDENTS SAID THREE SPECIAL MAGISTRATES COURTS HAVE BEEN SET UP TO TRY TO HEAR CASES AND CARRY OUT SENTENCES (IN MOST CASES BEATING WITH A CANE) AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. HE SAID ATTORNEYS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ARE THREATENING TO RESIGN FROM CASE IF COURTS REFUSE TO ALLOW SUFFICIENT TIME FOR NOTIFICATION OF PARENTS AND PREPARATION OF PROPER DEFENSE. WILLIAMS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ARRESTS, STUDENTS, CIVIL DISORDERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 12-Oct-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977CAPET01452
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770371-0946
Format: TEL
From: CAPE TOWN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19771072/aaaacius.tel
Line Count: 97
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: d0d41832-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 PRETORIA 5335
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 959108
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: POLICE ARREST 471 STUDENTS IN PORT ELIZABETH
TAGS: PINS, PINT, SF
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/d0d41832-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009